RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 1st *August,* 2003/10 *Sravana,* 1925 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Effect of Industrial discharge on ground water in Hyderabad

*181. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists of Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Andhra Pradesh, have found in a study that indiscriminate disposal of effluents from industrial complexes in Hyderabad is affecting the quality of ground water; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to send a team to see the seriousness of situation and provide assistance in the setting up of treatment plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The findings of the study carried out in 1997 at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Andhra Pradesh on "Soil and Water Resource characteristics in relation to Land Disposal of Industrial Effluents in Kattedan Industrial Development Area" revealed that ground water in the area is contaminated due to discharge of effluents from the industries located in Kattedan Industrial Development Area.

(b) Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board has taken action against defaulting Industries located in Kattedan Industrial Area. As a result, most of the industries have upgraded pollution control systems and adopted cleaner production technologies.

श्री सभापति : आज तीज का त्यौहार है, मैं आप सब को बधाई देता हूं ।

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKATA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question relates to the construction of effluent treatment plants in four industrial areas of Hyderabad city. The industrialization has created enormous problems of environmental pollution by generating variable quantity and quality of effluents. The drain carrying the mixed effluents flows along the agricultural fields and then they get polluted. May I know from the hon. Minister that whether the Government would sanction funds for the construction of effluent treatment plants in four major industrial areas of Hyderabad to save the mankind from health hazards?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes, Sir we do have a programme for providing assistance to construct common effluent treatment plants. If the State Government, with a particular proponent or a group of proponents, proposes a project, we will examine and sanction it.

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Sir, my next supplementary is: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the status of the pollution effluent works and the National River Conservation Plan to clean up the rivers and lakes in and around Hyderabad during the current Plan period. When are these proposed to be taken up?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, we have got the National River Conservation Plan. As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, we have already financed to construct five Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). The sanctioned fund is about 242 lakhs, and, all the five STPs are under construction.

Loss to urea manufacturers by new pricing policy

*182. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:†

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are set to unveil its new pricing policy for urea, phosphatic, potassic and complex fertilizers aimed drastically reducing farm subsidies;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.